

County talks about training for employees

The Decatur County commissioners and emergency management director talked about upcoming emergency management training for county employees and heard the state wants them to print 454-page manuals for each employee trained.

Director Patti Skubal told commissioners Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman had pointed out that people taking the 300 and 400 series classes for the National Incident Management System will need a manual. Mrs. Skubal said the book is 454 pages long. The state won't be printing out the manual for people taking the class, she said, so that task has fallen on the county.

That doesn't make sense, she added, because the printer on her computer would take forever to print just one manual, if it worked at all.

Both Marilyn Gamblin, county health administrator, and Sheriff Ken Badsy went to a classes where the state handed out the manuals, Mrs. Skubal said, and she has a book, but the state said it was changing the class, so those manuals might not work for those planning to take the training.

Mrs. Skubal said she had told the state that the county can't afford to print the manuals, nor does it have a printer to print them. Other counties are running into the same problem, she said.

The state, said Mr. Stallman, needs to simplify the course so people can understand it, absorb it and use it.

Is Fire Chief Bill Cathcart going to the upcoming training? asked Mr. Stallman. Mrs. Skubal said she doesn't know. If he doesn't, though, the county will be out of compliance to receive any state or federal grants.

That means, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, that the county might not be eligible for some Homeland Security grants.

An upcoming class in Hoxie is full, said Mrs. Skubal. Decatur County has five slots, with three people lined up to go, but there could be classes in Goodland and Colby soon.

She said officials might make some people retake some of the courses because the state says the classes weren't done right.

She said the county can apply for a grant for hazardous material mitigation training. She said she talked with County Attorney Steve

Firemen to make, sell pizza

The Norcat Rural Fire Department will once again make, sell and deliver pizzas for its annual fund raiser.

For the last six years, the firefighters have gathered at the former Norcat School to make pizzas. The 12-inch pies can have any number of toppings, including cheese, mushrooms, green peppers, onion, black olives, sauerkraut, beef, sausage, pepperoni and Canadian bacon. They can be ordered hot or ready to freeze or cook.

Place orders by Friday by calling any member of the Norcat Fire Department, including Carl Lyon, Rex Knapp, Darren Wentz, Doug Dempewolf, Galen Wentz, Jeff Roe, Scott Hartzog, Don Cressler, Troy Wentz, Mark Bailey, Gail Bailey and Tad Hartsough.

Pizzas have to be ordered by Friday, with the pies being delivered on Sunday, Jan. 27.

Money raised will go to updating fire fighting and safety equipment. Orders are limited to 10 pizzas each.

Internet tonight
Call
475-2206!

County Roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

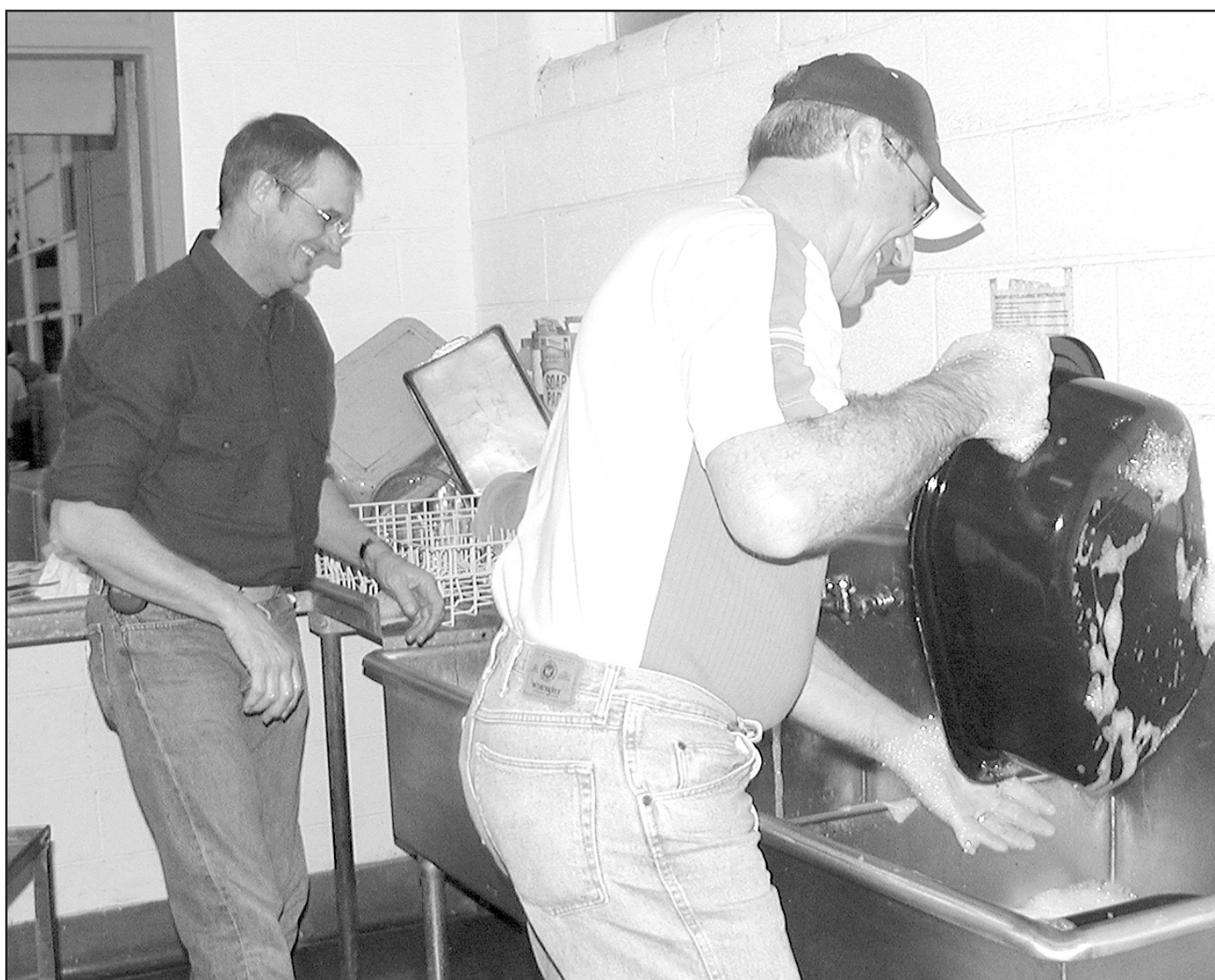
- Adopted yearly resolutions to start 2008 and recognized three men for their years of service with the county's road and bridge department. Story to come.
- Checked into a grant for a septic-tank system at the Decatur County Fairgrounds. Story to come.
- Talked about upcoming emergency management training for county employees including the state wanting the county to print 454-page manuals for each employee to be trained. Story at left.

Hirsch, who said the fire department in Hoxie got that grant last year and said the training was good.

Mrs. Skubal said she did talk with Chief Cathcart, but he didn't seem interested. The application is due on Thursday, she added. The commissioners gave her permission to apply.

Mrs. Skubal said she is trying to organize a meeting of the Local Environmental Protection Committee, a group dealing with hazardous material problems required by federal programs.

She said she had received a phone call from Chris Dempewolf, Norcat city clerk, who said she is leaving the position so they will need to redo the emergency shelter contract.



IN NORCATUR Saturday night, Jim Wasson and La-Moine Wolfram helped do the dishes during a hog feed to help raise money for Ron Montgomery who was injured in a farm accident. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

Community pulls together to help man

Businesses and people of the City of Norcat and Decatur County pulled together Saturday night to raise money for a man injured in a farm accident.

Ron Montgomery was injured at the end of November when his right arm was caught in a power takeoff on his family's farm.

In Norcat Saturday night a

hog roast was held to help raise money to help with medical bills. Around \$6,700 was raised with approximately 450 people served.

Everything from the cooking, to the meat to the paper products were donated for the dinner.

Doug Dempewolf, Scott Hartzog and Carl Lyon cooked the hog donated by Joe Dawson. The FFA

from Decatur Community High School were waiters, the baked beans were donated by Waddell and Reed and Creative Dimensions, the potato salad by Country-side Vet, the buns by the Norcat Civic Club, chips by Chris and Karen Bailey and the paper goods, coffee and tea by Doug and Chris Dempewolf. The city donated the

use of the old school. Anyone who still wants to make a donation to help the Montgomery family can do so by dropping it off at First National Bank where an account has been set up or put it in the mail to Chris Dempewolf, P.O. Box 32, Norcat, Kan., 67653.

The 'Seeds of Hope' Telethon needs YOUR Help

Saturday, Feb. 2
1-10 p.m. at The Gateway, Oberlin
or on Local Access Channel 7
Making a difference in Decatur County!



Join me at the Telethon!

Seeds of Hope is THE annual fund-raiser for many of Oberlin and Decatur County's charities and nonprofit organizations. Most of these groups have no other public fund raisers. Seeds of Hope is their "United Campaign."

That's what makes Seeds of Hope so important to the whole community. Hundreds of hours of volunteer effort are being invested because these organizations are the lifeblood of our county. They depend on the money raised in the Telethon to get them through the year.

If you can help or donate items for the auction, call Jack Benton at 475-3174. And most importantly, Seeds of Hope

needs your donation, no matter how large or small.

You can call in during the Telethon, 475-3753 and 475-2901, or Kimberly Davis or Kristi Smith at 475-3510, or use the coupon below and mail in your donation.

Every dollar counts for Decatur County, so send yours in today!

Don't forget to watch "Seeds of Hope" on the Oberlin Community Access Channel 7, from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Come on up to The Gateway to watch, sample the BBQ Beef, ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, pie and chili soup and make your donation in person.



Oberlin Area

"Seeds of Hope Telethon"

Send in your donation today!

Yes, I want to help. Here is my donation:

Name:

Address:

City: **Zip:**

Donation:

Mail to: Box 305, Oberlin, Kan. 67749

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